

**Question for written answer E-000171/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Xenophobic and racist demonstrations in Germany

For some months now a wave of xenophobic and racist demonstrations has been sweeping through Germany. These demonstrations are driven by the German political movement Pegida (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West).

Every Monday this movement organises meetings against Islam and the threat to German culture and is led by Lutz Bachmann, a shadowy figure with a criminal record for theft and other offences such as pimping and assault. Many critical voices are being raised against Pegida, from citizens organising meetings to call for an inclusive Germany, to the German political parties.

On top of the growing tensions within the various countries of the European Union, comes the terrible attack in Paris against the offices of the weekly satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, in which at least a dozen people lost their lives.

At this time of crisis, in which it is vital to cling on to liberty and defend the rule of law, we would like to ask the Commission:

What strategy does it propose implementing against the polarisation of society in the face of the increasingly frequent outbreaks of extremism?